COMPLETE GABON – RARE BIRDS AND APES

28 AUGUST–17 SEPTEMBER 2027
28 AUGUST–17 SEPTEMBER 2028



Gabon is home to many rather rare and poorly-known birds – one of the most wanted of them is ***Vermiculated Fishing Owl****.*

Overview

Gabon remains a relatively undiscovered birding destination, offering many challenging African bird species. This French-speaking country lies in west-central equatorial Africa. Although Gabon has no endemic birds, it offers several tantalizing species such as **African River Martin**, **Grey-necked Rockfowl**, **Black-headed Bee-eater**, **Vermiculated Fishing Owl**, and various other Congo-basin species which are often easier to find here than elsewhere.

Almost 70% of Gabon remains covered by lowland rainforest, which is part of the appeal, and, with a country population of fewer than 2 million people, much of this forest remains relatively undisturbed. The country also has a wide range of other habitats, not only tropical rainforest but also coastal lagoons, pristine beaches, large rivers and associated riverine vegetation, montane-type grasslands, and broken miombo woodland, all of which are home to a wide variety of fabulous birds. Gabon also supports spectacular wildlife. It's relatively undisturbed wilderness areas (such as within the amazing Loango National Park, and the vast Lopé National Park) are home to the likes of **African Forest Elephant**, the striking **Red River Hog**, three species of crocodile, **Western Gorilla** and the iconic **Mandrill**, amongst others. Our comprehensive Gabon tour visits the country's key birding sites in search of its many special species.



Black-headed Bee-eater *is another of Gabon's most prized birds – and probably the most challenging African bee-eater to find.*

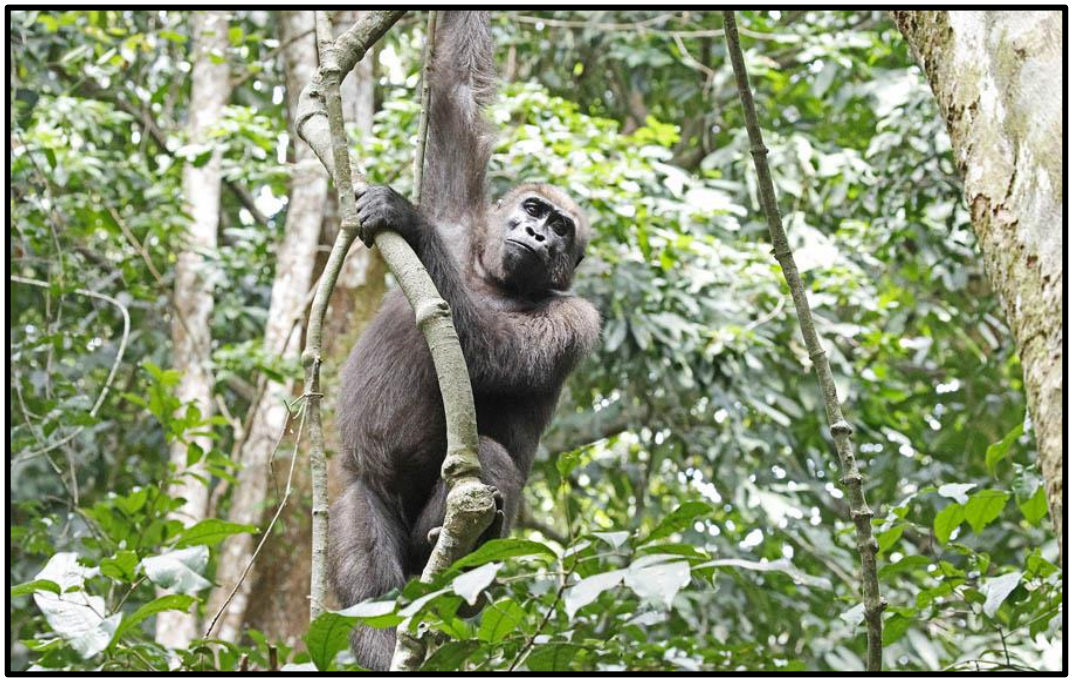
Beginning in Libreville, Gabon's coastal capital, we fly to Franceville to explore the open landscapes of the Lekoni region and the Batéké Plateau. Here, we search for localized species such as **Congo Moor Chat**, **Black-chinned Weaver**, **Black-collared Bulbul**, and the spectacular **Black-headed Bee-eater**.

We then transfer to Idjanga Private Reserve, where we hope to find the highly sought-after **Grey-necked Rockfowl** and observe **Western Gorillas** visiting the reserve's forest clearings, known as *bais*. We also begin exploring Gabon's lowland forests in search of a range of additional species.

Next, we spend four nights in the greater Makokou and Ipassa region, exploring its extensive forests for species such as **Plumed Guineafowl**, **Gosling's Apalis**, and **Bare-cheeked Trogon**. We then travel to Lopé National Park, where we target birds including **Congo Serpent Eagle** and the localized **Dja River Scrub Warbler**. Optional **Mandrill** trekking is also available here (permit costs excluded).

From Lopé, we travel toward the coast, stopping overnight in Lambaréné before continuing by boat to Omboué and the spectacular Loango National Park. Boat trips and excursions through this vast wilderness offer excellent opportunities to observe birds and mammals. Target species include **African River Martin** (though important to mention we won't be seeing these birds at their breeding colonies), **Rosy Bee-eater**, **Vermiculated Fishing Owl**, **Pel's Fishing Owl**, and **White-crested Tiger Heron**. Optional **Western Gorilla** trekking is also available in Loango (permit costs excluded).

We then return to Libreville for the end of the tour.



*We allocate time for participants to join two optional ape-trekking activities on the tour. These are for **Western Gorilla** (pictured) and Mandrill (photo Sue Bryan, past tour participant).*

Detailed Itinerary (21 days/20 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Libreville

Today is your arrival day, and you are welcome to arrive at your leisure (there are no formal plans for birding today). Upon arrival in Libreville, Gabon's capital, you will be transferred to our hotel, where the tour will begin with a group dinner.

Overnight: Libreville hotel

Day 2. Flight to Franceville and transfer to Lekoni

We will take a morning flight to Franceville, depending on the flight schedule, and then transfer via Bongoville to Lekoni. We will be based here for three nights, using this as a base for our explorations of the wider area. If time permits, we will begin birding in the afternoon and look for some of the species listed under Days 3–4 below.

Overnight: Lekoni hotel



Congo Moor Chat *is one of our main targets in the grasslands around Lekoni.*

Days 3–4. Birding around Lekoni

The area around Lekoni is rather unique in equatorial Africa – comprising of the higher-lying grasslands of the Batéké Plateau, a habitat zone that seems very much out of place here. Naturally, this somewhat isolated habitat hosts many unique bird species, not found elsewhere in Gabon and more typical of southern African countries such as Angola and Zambia. In addition to these

montane-type grasslands there are also small tracts of somewhat-stunted miombo woodland along with patches of montane forest, creating a fantastic birding environment! The most prized bird of the grasslands is arguably the sought-after **Congo Moor Chat**, which is relatively common and normally fairly conspicuous. Other sought-after species include **Finsch's Francolin**, **Black-rumped Buttonquail**, **Plains Lark**, the ever-prized **Black-collared Bulbul**, scarce **Black-chinned Weaver**, **Fawn-breasted Waxbill**, and **Short-tailed Pipit**.

Where the grasslands give way to miombo-type woodlands we will focus on other species more characteristic of this unique woodland belt running through south-central Africa, such as **Black-backed Barbet**, **Red-capped Crombec**, **Yellow-bellied Hyliota**, **Tinkling Cisticola**, **Green-capped Eremomela**, **White-winged Black Tit**, **Western Violet-backed Sunbird**, **Wood Pipit** and **Cabanis's Bunting**, amongst others. Even small patches of thickets in the wooded areas can support a surprisingly different range of species. We will try for the likes of **Bocage's** and **Lühder's Bushshrikes**, **Angolan Batis**, **Sharpe's Drongo** and even **African Broadbill**.



*The strange **Black-collared Bulbul** is a localized central African special.*

The nearby Bongoville forest is excellent, and offers our first opportunity to explore lowland forest. The birding in these lowland forests is notoriously difficult, with the birds often shy and requiring considerable patience and effort to observe – a challenge we will encounter throughout our forest birding in Gabon. Our main target here is the highly sought-after **Black-headed Bee-eater** (see cover image), which is usually found around the forest edges. We should also be able to find our first **Black Bee-eater** here as well (another stunning member of this family), along with other forest specials like **Yellow-throated Cuckoo**, the notoriously difficult-to-see **Lyre-tailed Honeyguide**, **Rufous-bellied Helmetshrike**, **Spotted Greenbul**, **Purple-headed Starling**, **Cassin's Malimbe** and **Tiny Sunbird**, amongst many others. Barbets and tinkerbirds abound, and

we should be able to find the likes of **Yellow-spotted** and **Hairy-breasted Barbets** and **Red-rumped Tinkerbird**, and the calls of **Yellow-billed Turacos** are usually not far away.

Overnight: Lekoni hotel

Day 5. Transfer to Idjanga

Following the Lekoni area, our next major birding destination is the exciting and virtually unvisited Idjanga Private Reserve, close to Okandja. En route, we may have further opportunities to find any species missed around Lekoni, particularly **Black-headed Bee-eater**. In the afternoon, we will arrive at Idjanga and settle in, perhaps enjoying our first birding on the reserve, should time allow.

*This newly established reserve is still developing its infrastructure, and guest accommodation is currently limited. There is a high chance of shared rooms and shared bathrooms.

Overnight: Idjanga



Rufous-sided Broadbill *is a shy denizen of the forests that we'll hope to find displaying.*

Days 6–7. Birding Idjanga for Grey-necked Rockfowl and more

We have two full days to bird and explore the Idjanga Reserve. Much of our time will be dedicated to visiting the remote rocky forested areas deep in the reserve to hopefully track down the prized **Grey-necked Rockfowl**, which occur here. Idjanga also has several *bais*, which are open, often waterlogged clearings in the forests, where high numbers of mammals and birds gather to drink and feed. We'll be sure to include visits to some of these, and might find our first **African Forest Elephants** and if we're lucky, some of the **Western Gorillas** that call the forests here home.

While these will be our main targets whilst here, there are a number of other exciting lowland species that are possible, and we'll be getting a good headstart on the Makokou and Ipassa birds, listed below. Notably, we have our first opportunities for the rare **Plumed** and **Black Guineafowls**, **Bates's Nightjar**, along with several hornbills, various greenbuls, and more.

Overnight: Idjanga

Day 8. Transfer to Makokou

We have a long drive in store for us, on a typically slow gravel road for the most part, which will likely take most of the day. We'll be able to fit in a few stops for birding in the impressive forest that we'll drive through for virtually the entire journey. Driving for hours through seemingly untouched tall lowland forest is an impressive experience. As always, we'll be keeping an eye out for the more special birds like **Gabon Batis**, **Rachel's Malimbe**, **Sjöstedt's Greenbul** and **Black-headed Waxbill**. Closer to Makokou we can also have our first attempt at the scarce **Gosling's Apalis**. We anticipate rolling into Makokou in the late afternoon, and we will spend our final night enjoying the amenities of a town before going into Ipassa the following day.

Overnight: Makokou hotel



***Gosling's Apalis** is a scarce Central African species that is not easily seen anywhere.*

Days 9–11. Birding the Ipassa forests

We have three full days of birding. Most of our time will be spent in and around the Ipassa-Makokou Strict Nature Reserve, where we will explore the forest edges around the old research station and undertake hikes into the heart of the forest. We will explore the forest entirely on foot.

Forest birding can be challenging here, but with patience and a little luck, we should find many of the area's special birds.

The forest canopy and upper levels support some of the larger and more vocal species, and we will search for the massive **Great Blue Turaco** along with the smaller **Yellow-billed** and **Guinea Turacos**. A plethora of hornbills occurs here, including sought-after **White-thighed**, **Black-casqued**, **Red-billed Dwarf**, **Black Dwarf** and **Eastern Long-tailed Hornbills**, while **Piping** and **Congo Pied Hornbills** are usually more common. **Chocolate-backed Kingfishers** call from the upper reaches of the massive trees, yet remain as difficult to see as ever. Barbets are also well represented, and we will look for **Eastern Yellow-billed Barbet** in addition to the other species mentioned already in the itinerary.



*An abundance of hornbills frequents the mature and relatively undisturbed forests of the greater Makokou region – here two giant **Black-casqued Hornbills** fly over the canopy.*

The deep calls of **Afep** and **Western Bronze-naped Pigeons** ring out throughout the forest, though it normally takes some effort to track these birds down. A number of cuckoos are also present, and our main targets will feature the sought-after **Yellow-throated Cuckoo**, along with **Dusky Long-tailed** and **Olive Long-tailed Cuckoos**, while more widespread species include **African Emerald**, **Black** and **Red-chested Cuckoos**. Not to be forgotten, a number of woodpecker species also occur here, and species such as **Yellow-crested**, **Brown-eared**, **Buff-spotted**, **Gabon** and **Green-backed Woodpeckers** all feature. Many passerines also frequent the higher reaches, and we'll be keeping an eye out for **Red-eyed Puffback**, **Western Oriole**, **Purple-throated Cuckooshrike**, **Green Hylia**, tiny **Rufous-crowned Eremomela**, **Fraser's Rufous Thrush**, **Dusky Tit**, **Fraser's** and **Little Green Sunbirds**, and all of the world's nigritas–**Grey-headed**, **Pale-fronted**, **Chestnut-breasted** and **White-breasted Nigritas**.

Species that prefer the mid-strata and vine tangles hanging from the canopy include the sought-after **Bare-cheeked Trogon** and secretive **Rufous-sided Broadbill**, alongside **African Dwarf** and **Blue-breasted Kingfishers**, **Blue Malkoha**, **Fraser's Forest**, **Yellow-footed** and **Chestnut-capped Flycatchers**, **Bates's Paradise Flycatcher**, **Gabon Batis**, **Yellow-bellied** and **White-spotted Wattle-eyes**, **Western** and **Yellow-throated Nicators**, **Yellow-browed Camaroptera**, **Grey Longbill**, the sought-after **Gosling's Apalis**, **Maxwell's Black Weaver**, and **Crested**, **Blue-billed**, **Red-bellied** and **Cassin's Malimbes**. Tangles, thickets, and bushy growth in the lower strata play host to many shy species, and we'll have our work cut-out for us as we try to find the likes of **Blue-headed Wood Dove** and the beautiful **Yellow-breasted Forest Robin**, as well as **Brown-chested** and **Fire-crested Alethes**, **Brown** and **Pale-breasted Illadopsis**, **Olive-green Camaroptera**, **Banded Prinia** and **White-tailed Ant Thrush**.

We will also be able to hone our bulbul skills immensely here, with a vast number of different species occurring within the forest, including sought-after species such as **Sjöstedt's**, **Golden** and both **Eastern Bearded** and **White-bearded Greenbuls**. Other possible species include **Ansorge's**, **Yellow-whiskered**, **Falkenstein's**, **Honeyguide**, **Spotted**, **Little Grey**, **Icterine**, **Xavier's** and **Red-tailed Greenbuls**, along with the noisy **Swamp Palm Bulbul** and shy **Yellow-lored** and **Red-tailed Bristlebills** possible as well.



*The diminutive **Yellow-throated Cuckoo** is a sought-after lowland forest bird.*

Keeping an eye out for raptors flying overhead can produce species such as **Cassin's Hawk-Eagle**, **Congo Serpent Eagle**, **Long-tailed Hawk**, **Red-thighed Sparrowhawk** and **Red-chested Goshawk**. Where such openings in the canopy are present, we will also scan the skies for aerial feeders, and hope to find **Mottled**, **Cassin's** and **Sabine's Spinetails** and the scarce **Forest Swallow**, along with **Square-tailed Saw-wing**. Flowering trees in these zones, as well as in the

forest proper, play host to large numbers of sunbirds, featuring **Tiny**, **Carmelite**, **Grey-chinned**, **Collared**, **Blue-throated Brown**, **Olive-bellied** and **Superb Sunbirds**.

The grassy verges to the roads and tracks in the area may host a variety of colorful seedeaters, amongst them is the possibility of **Black-bellied Seedcracker** and **Western Bluebill**, while the likes of **Black-headed** and **Orange-cheeked Waxbills** and **Black-and-white Mannikin** are usually more commonly seen. While here, we can also try our luck for some of the prized (though decidedly uncommon) nocturnal birds, which may include the localized **Sjöstedt's Barred Owlet** and **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**, as well as **Bates's** and **Brown Nightjars**.

We will need to be very fortunate, however, to come across the poorly known **Spot-breasted Ibis**, both **Black** and **Plumed Guineafowls**, rare **Black-collared Lovebird**, sought-after **African Piculet**, along with the likes of scarce **Black-necked Wattle-eye**, **Yellow-capped Weaver**, and both **Rachel's** and **Red-crowned Malimbes** – but all are possible.



*After dark, we'll be looking for species like this **Fraser's Eagle-Owl**.*

One of our afternoons we'll take a boat trip along the Ivindo River, which should allow us to find large numbers of **Rock Pratincoles** that typically call the rocky sections of this river home. We'll also search for **African Skimmer**, and might even find our first **Grey Pratincole** (although we have better chances of finding this species later in the tour). We'll also search for **African Finfoot** and **Hartlaub's Duck**, and if we're lucky the mythical **Vermiculated Fishing Owl**. We'll also keep a special eye out for any possible **Spot-breasted Ibis** flying over the river.

*Note that the Ipassa research station has basic facilities, with shared bathrooms and no hot water. Staying here is essential to the tour however.

Overnight: Ipassa research station

Day 12. Transfer to Lopé

After three full days of birding in the lowland forests around Ipassa, we will journey to the vast Lopé National Park. This will again be a full travel day, with a long road to negotiate, and the road typically slow. We expect to reach our lodge on the outskirts of the park in the late afternoon. If time permits, we can take a walk around the grounds. It will be a welcome change to stay in a comfortable hotel again, following our time in Ipassa.

Overnight: La Lopé Hotel

Days 13–14. Birding and Mandrills in Lopé National Park

This is one of the biggest national parks in Gabon, offering a mix of rivers, bush savanna, open plains, and forest. Given the reserve's size, we will only be able to explore a fraction of it, focusing on some of its most exciting areas. We will have two full days to explore. Afternoons will generally be set aside for those that wish to trek in search of **Mandrills**.



*A fine male **Mandrill** watches over the enormous troop of mostly females wandering about. This photo was taken on our 2024 tour and gives an exciting in-situ image of the experience.*

In the open areas we will try for species such as **Senegal Lapwing**, **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**, **Compact Weaver**, and **Red-headed Quelea**, while a distant swamp is home to arguably our biggest target – the localized **Dja River Scrub Warbler**. In the various small forest patches (and along their edges) we will seek out **Long-tailed Hawk**, **Red-chested Owlet**, **Lyre-tailed Honeyguide**, **Fiery-breasted Bushshrike** and the superb **Eastern Long-tailed Hornbill**, along with a great many others. We will also be sure to keep an eye on the sky for the sought-after **Bates's Swift** flying overhead. The massive river flowing past our lodge usually has a few

waterbirds such as **White-crowned Lapwing**, **African Skimmer**, and **Rock Pratincole**. After dark, we can search for **Bates's** and **Swamp Nightjars** in the surround area. Lopé is sure to be a good change of birding, with its mix of habitats, and we will likely have seen the bulk of the more common and widespread species – but this is a good backup chance for us to look for any species we may have missed so far. Lopé is home not only to many bird species but also to populations of **African Forest Elephant** and **Cape** (Forest) **Buffalo**, along with a wide variety of primates, including **Putty-nosed**, **Crowned**, and **Moustached Monkeys**, **Grey-cheeked Mangabey**, **Black Colobus** – and most importantly, the rare and stunning **Mandrill**.

*The cost of the Mandrill trekking permit is excluded from the tour cost, and is optional. We will typically have the afternoon set aside for those who wish to do the Mandrill trekking. In Gabon, group sizes are typically limited to four to six participants, so we'll likely need to divide the group.

Overnight: La Lopé Hotel

Day 15. Birding and transfer to Lambaréné

We will spend the final morning birding near our hotel, before driving to Lambaréné. The road to Ndjolé is extremely slow, and passes through some forested habitats that may give us **Bates's Swift** and **Forest Swallow**. At Ndjolé we should find the scarce **Grey Pratincole** on distant sandbars visible from town (though the birds are usually far away). After arriving at our comfortable hotel, we will settle in for the afternoon.

Overnight: Lambaréné hotel



Pel's Fishing Owl *is incredibly one of two fishing owls we'll be trying very hard for in Gabon.*

Day 16. Boat transfer to Omboué, and Mpivié River birding

Saving the best for last, we begin the eventual journey to the magical Loango National Park – though today, we will not get into the park itself, and will stay in the quaint village of Omboué, on the outskirts. From Lambaréné this morning, we'll take a boat trip with our luggage, for several hours to Omboué,. We have a fair distance to cover, and we'll likely be going fairly quickly on the boat, with limited birding opportunities along the way. Once at Omboué, we'll check into our comfortable hotel, and in the afternoon, we'll take a birding boat trip on the nearby Mpivié River. This is one of the most accessible areas in the country to find the highly prized **White-crested Tiger Heron** and the sought-after **Pel's Fishing Owl**. We are also likely to see several other great birds, including the local **African Finfoots**, which are usually darker than those seen elsewhere, **Shining-blue Kingfisher** and **Hartlaub's Duck**.

Overnight: Omboué hotel

Days 17–19. Rare birds and wildlife of the Loango National Park

We'll transfer the short distance to Loango National Park itself in the morning, where we will have three nights in this incredible wilderness area. This is one of Africa's greatest remaining Edens (as described by *Time* magazine). We will spend our time between two lodges located within the park, giving us the best opportunities to access the excellent coastal savannas, thick riparian swamp forests and vibrant lagoons that make up this wilderness.



*Two **African River Martins** are perched with glorious **Rosy Bee-eaters**. These two species often mix together at this time of year along the parks waterways, just prior to the river martins commencing their breeding seasons.*

The very remote (and more rustic) Akaka Camp (reached by a long, several-hour-long boat ride, deep into the park) is idyllically situated on the Akaka River, where it overlooks a floodplain and is otherwise surrounded by prime lowland forest. We have several key birding targets here, with arguably the most important going to the highly localized **African River Martin**. These rare birds should have begun arriving during our time here, and while they will not be at their colonies breeding yet, are usually present in groups on the river, often associating with the vast flocks of **Rosy Bee-eaters** which are around. The rarely seen **Vermiculated Fishing Owl** is another of our major targets here, and some time in the evenings will be dedicated to seeing this incredible bird. We will undertake day boat cruises whilst here, and will be on the lookout for other targets like **Violet-tailed**, **Reichenbach's** and **Mangrove Sunbirds**, **White-backed Night Heron**, several kingfishers and a range of other waterbirds.

The lowland forests in this part of the park are also home to some exciting birds and give us a chance at seeing rare birds like **Black** and **Plumed Guineafowls**, **Bare-cheeked Trogon**, **Eastern Long-tailed Hornbill** and even **Sjöstedt's Barred Owlet**, if we are lucky (though we'll need to remain alert for elephants while walking). Spending some time sitting on the camp deck, overlooking the area, is a great way to see many birds with great species like the enormous **Black-casqued Hornbills** regularly flying by, along with several raptors and so many others – even **African River Martins** at times!



African Forest Elephant *is one of several important mammal targets we'll be searching for – fortunately they are common in Loango. We will also be looking for others including the stunning Red River Hog.*

Aside from the many birds we'll be seeing, the park is arguably more famous for its other wildlife and general wilderness. Herds of **African Forest Elephant** and **Cape** (Forest) **Buffalo** roam freely

and widely throughout the park. We will keep a special eye out for the spectacular **Red River Hog**, though these are perhaps better seen in the more open savanna regions of the park, and **Central African Slender-snouted Crocodile** are often seen along the waterways

*One of the main mammal highlights for us is the opportunity to track the habituated **Western Gorillas** in the park. As with the **Mandrill** trekking at Lopé, the number of participants allowed on each gorilla trek is limited, and the group will likely need to be divided. Those participants who are not trekking that day, will go out birding, and vice versa (see more information under the "Gabon General Information").

Moving away from Akaka, we'll spend time at the very comfortable Ndola Camp, closer to the savanna portions of the park and at the head of the Iguela Lagoon. Just as with Akaka, the birding from the lodge deck is superb, and the immediate surroundings often have a wide array of birds including several sought-after sunbirds and shy **Leaf-loves**, among others. Our time here will likely consist of a mix of boat trips and drives in open-top safari vehicles. These will take us through the mosaic of beautiful coastal grasslands and small lowland forest patches.



*Delightful **Rosy Bee-eaters** abound in Loango. We'll be seeing hundreds in the air and at one or two of their breeding colonies, which should be active at this time of year. They are a firm trip highlight!*

The birdlife here is quite different, and we'll be on the lookout for the likes of **Forbes's Plover**, **Senegal Lapwing**, **Pectoral-patch Cisticola**, **Quailfinch** and **Blue-breasted Bee-eater** in the more open areas. **Rosy Bee-eaters** also nest in these areas, and there is usually an active colony present at this time of the year. **African River Martins** also breed in these areas, but later in the season and we do not expect to find them at their breeding colonies on this tour (but they should be present elsewhere in the park, as mentioned above). The mega **Black-headed Bee-eater** can

also be found in the area, should we still be missing this bird, as can the scarce **Congo Serpent Eagle**.

A remote island in the area holds a small number of breeding **Loango Weavers**, which we'll be on the lookout for, while the coastline here will give us many new additional waterbirds. The tern roost at the mouth regularly attracts **African Skimmer** and **Damara Tern**.

*Please note that while the rooms are comfortable with private bathrooms, there are limited rooms in Loango, especially at Akaka camp. Depending on the group configuration, single rooms may not be available and shared rooms may be required.

Overnight: Loango National Park (Loango Camps – Akaka & Ndola, or similar)

Day 20. Final birding in Loango National Park, and transfer back to Libreville

This is the penultimate day of the tour. We will spend our final morning in Loango National Park searching for any species we have yet to see or enjoying further encounters with iconic birds such as **Rosy Bee-eater**. Around midday, we will likely need to bid farewell to the park, and start our journey back to Port-Gentil, from where we will take an evening flight back to the capital, Libreville. After checking into our hotel in Libreville, we will enjoy a final group dinner and reflect on the tour's birding and wildlife highlights.

Overnight: Libreville hotel

Day 21. Departure from Libreville

This is your departure day, and you are welcome to leave at your leisure. Please note that there are no formal birding plans for the day, and the tour will officially conclude after breakfast.

Overnight: Not included

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides, and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling or other factors.

Gabon is notoriously expensive, and the standard of service does not always reflect the cost. Some accommodation is basic, with shared rooms and bathrooms and no hot water. It is important to mention that our tour price includes all the domestic flights, three nights within the pricey Loango National Park, and more days than most other itineraries to allow for a more enjoyable, less rushed trip. Additionally, it is possible to do both Mandrill and Western Gorilla treks on this route, and time is specifically set aside for this. All of which increase the cost, and differentiates our tour to most other birding tour offerings.

Tour Details

Duration:	21 days
Group size:	5–8
Dates:	28 August–17 September 2027 28 August–17 September 2028
Start:	Libreville
End:	Libreville
Price:	€ 13,850 per person sharing (2027) € 14,950 per person sharing (2028)
Single supplement:	€ 1,480 (2027) € 1,600 (2028)

Price includes:

All accommodation (*note some places are basic with shared rooms, facilities)
Meals (from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 21)
Unlimited bottled water
Expert tour leader and local guide
All entrance and conservation fees
All ground transport
Airport transfers
*Domestic flights cost (Libreville–Franceville and Port-Gentil–Libreville)
*All standard drinks within Loango National Park

Price excludes:

International flights (to/from Libreville)
Visas
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts, laundry, internet access, etc.
Drinks other than water (except in Loango)
Personal travel and medical insurance
Gratuities (please see our tipping guidelines blog)